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DEPT FOR EB/IFD/ODF: E. WAECHTER AND NEA/ELA: K.ALLEN

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SUBJECT: BELGIUM: DEMARCHE ON LEBANON DONORS' CONFERENCE
DELIVERED

REF: A. STATE 2781

[1](#)B. 06 BRUSSELS 3834

[1](#)1. (SBU) On January 10, Econoff drew on ref A points to urge strong Belgian participation in the Lebanon Donors' Conference, speaking with the following from the Ministry of Cooperation and Development: Pierre Vaesen, Chief of Staff; Michel Lastschenko, Advisor; and Jonathan Biermann, Advisor. Separately, Poloff raised the points with officials in the Belgian Foreign Ministry's Bureau for Middle Eastern Affairs. Biermann stated that the composition of the Belgian delegation and any new Belgian contributions would be discussed on January 12. Biermann opined that the Belgian delegation would most likely include Minister of Cooperation and Development Armand De Decker and possibly Prime Minister Verhofstadt. Post will follow up after the January 12 meeting.

[1](#)2. (U) Ref B detailed Belgian pledges for aid and reconstruction efforts in Lebanon, which as of November 2006 totaled more than 5.2 million euros (\$6.6 million).
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